

Economics and the Family Vision

For literally thousands of years, the family was the center of life and commerce. Children were viewed as blessings to a family partly because of the industry and financial gain a family received from having many children. Children tended livestock, milked cows, cooked meals, mucked stalls, cleaned, and generally assisted their parents in daily work. By 12 years old young boys were expected to become men and to help work in the fields, hunt, and fish and learn to provide for their families. Many young men 12 and older were groomed by this age to take all of the responsibilities of providing and protecting the family in the Fathers absence. Fathers teaching the young men to have wisdom from God's word, right along with learning to fight and shoot was a critical part of everyday life.

Modern times are much different. Today children are seen as a curse. Due to no longer having an agricultural life style, a farm or a business that depends on children to help provide, children are no longer seen as a blessing, let alone to provide any productive or financial gain. We are taught to have children "when we can afford them" and children are seen as financial burden on the family. No longer are children expected to be a productive part of our society, but conversely, they are a drain of financial recourses. A government study reported by Expenditures on

Children by Families released in August of 2009 states that a child born in 2008 to a middle class family in the United States will cost \$291,570 to rear from infancy to age 18! This estimate did not include the cost of childbirth or college. Because the modern families have only been taught to be good employees, (servants) the world sees those who choose to have large families as crazy!

What happened? What caused these changes in our perception of children as well as being in business for ourselves? Are the changes inevitable and inherent to modern times? What about following God's Word to be fruitful and multiply and to take dominion of the earth? If He states in scripture that children are a blessing and a gift from him, is He now wrong? Was He only talking about the joy children bring to our lives and the lessons they teach us? Or is there more to it? Are we asking for God's financial blessings; please give us more money to get fancier homes and more material things, while denying the financial blessings and gifts he has already offered us thru children? Isn't that like telling your earthly father, that you don't want his nice birthday present but want cash instead? The answer is a great debate but certainly is rooted into what we have been taught thru the public education system. "Get a good education, get a good job, get good credit, work hard and you can achieve the American Dream"...

We believe that one of the simplest solutions to the economic and financial crisis we see today is the reestablishment of the family as a center of commerce, and business in modern culture. Perhaps modern children will not tend sheep on a hill or go to the town well to fetch the family's water, but there many ways in which families can work together in a family business.

We would contend that fathers with the help of their families, not only should be, but are more than able to provide for their own, without needing to go into debt, depending on the government or even another man for a job for their provision. If we go back to Biblical teaching our children will inherit houses and riches from the fathers as well as a Biblical inheritance, rather than debt as is the trend today.

How can this be done today? Is it really possible? Is there anyone doing it? Would God have us to spend our time and energy on such an endeavor? Wasn't the Sermon on the Mount about trusting God to provide and not worrying about it? What exactly is a Biblical view of this matter? What does it all mean to us? These are the questions we would like to explore. We believe there are answers. Proverbs 25:2 tells us "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of

3 kings is to search out a matter." As kings of our families, it is our duty as fathers to seek out these matters. God has given us this responsibility as confirmed by I Timothy 5:4,8 which reads, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

We have latched onto the Biblical idea of having a multi-generational family vision, which includes a family business, but we have recently discovered that a vision for only one family may be way too small. Once God has shown one family the benefits of an abundance mentality and building a family business rather than just having a job, why would we want to keep that blessing to ourselves? Why not share it with other families?

Thus, was born the vision of the Christian Family Business Association. (CFBA) But what are the advantages of owning my own business? Can I really do it? I have a great job making great money now? Can I pass my business to my children, what about passing your job to you children? These are the topics that require a great deal of discussion and prayer. Our desire is to help you in our seeking God's direction and wisdom in your family, and your future. Most all of us have thought about owning a business of our own, but we have lost the apprenticeship culture that use to teach us prosperous, multi-generational Freedom.

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